

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 18, 1989

CITIZEN EXPRESSES
CONCERN REGARDING
GANG AND DRUG
PROBLEMS AT LODI
HIGH SCHOOL

Elaine Adams, 1042 North Lincoln Avenue, Lodi, expressed her concerns regarding gang and drug problems at Lodi High School.

CC-16
CC-24(b)
CC-152

Elaine Adams
42-77
Lodi

Fight spurs unconfirmed rumors of gangs

BY TABITHA MALLEY

On Monday, December 5, in front of Lodi High School a short fight occurred involving four or five teenagers, some of which were Lodi High students.

The fight lasted briefly before LHS campus supervisor reached the scene and took control. The students involved were not hurt and LHS authorities maintain that no weapons were apparent.

Assistant principal, Pete Saco, commented that the fight was primarily a result of an off-campus group of students conflicting with LHS students.

When questioned on the subject of gang involvement, Saco said that the talk about gangs was a typical example of campus rumors that surround a situation such as

this.

One student stated that the violence is nonsense. He said that the kids involved in gangs have excess energy and they just channel it into fighting. He said, "If they have energy to fight, they've obviously got energy to work." This student said that if there was more work for the kind of kids that turn to gangs for acceptance, then the availability of jobs would "cut down on a lot of the fighting".

Saco maintained that there was no evidence of gang involvement and that if there had been it was a matter for the police.

To avoid any similar conflicts police officers were stationed at the front of the school last week. They were there as a precautionary measure to discourage any

reoccurrence of Monday's conflict.

One unnamed student, who was supposedly involved in Monday's fight, was detained in the office until school had completely let out to insure the safety of that student and to avoid any other fights.

When asked if the students involved received any punishment for their participation in Monday's fight, Saco answered, "No, we felt the problem started because of off-campus students."

Some students at LHS say that even with the police stationed in front of the school, the problem will continue--at Hutchins Street Square late at night or practically anywhere that the police aren't. This, unfortunately, leaves a lot of open territory. Some students interviewed even went as far as to

say that the police only aggravate the situation by causing teenagers to become more rebellious towards a adult intervention.

While there are no confirmed reports of gang involvement some students tell a different story.

Allegedly the two gangs involved were South Side Lodi (SSL) and BNG. These are supposedly the two largest gangs in Lodi. Both groups have members that attend LHS.

When asked about the possibility of any use of weapons in the fight, three separate students confirmed that there were weapons but that none were used. Gang members keep such things as chains, knives, and pipes in their cars but will not use them unless the other side does. All students interviewed said that there were no guns.

More information about gangs was disclosed voluntarily. Students interviewed said that some kids join gangs to have a place to belong and still others are simply forced into it. One student summed up another reason for joining a gang by saying, "If you're in a gang, no one will mess with you."

Competition between gangs has reached a peak recently in California. One student said that it was simply about who's the best, who's the toughest. The gangs want control of their section of town or their particular school.

Spanish Club provides gifts for Mary Graham Hall kids

BY GWEN IRWIN

For the last several years the Spanish Club has provided help to children during the Christmas season and this year will deliver gifts, cookies, and candy to the Mary Graham Hall Orphanage.

The Spanish Club needs any staff or students to provide gifts under five dollars candy, cookies, or money for the chil-

children during the Christmas season. Last year the Spanish Club brought a Christmas dinner to a family of ten who were picked from Lodi High School. Other projects the Spanish Club has been involved in from previous years dealt with children from the Regional Adolescent Treatment Program for children.

Some problems the Spanish Club would like to thank the Spanish Club and all other individuals, students, and staff, who donated gifts or money to this worthy cause.

All gifts are to be in by Wednesday, Dec. 22, so that they may be delivered Christmas weekend to the children at the orphanage.

Some problems the Spanish Club